

Claims

- [c1] We claim:
- 1.A method for controlling flow of gases through a passage between an engine crankcase and an engine intake manifold, the method comprising:
decreasing a flow of gases through the passage between the crankcase and the intake manifold when a temperature of the gases is greater than a predetermined temperature.
 - [c2] 2.The method of claim 1 wherein the step of decreasing the flow of gases through the passage includes restricting a flow path of the gases when said temperature is greater than said predetermined temperature.
 - [c3] 3. A method for controlling flow of gases through a passage between an engine crankcase and an engine intake manifold, the method comprising:
controlling a flow of gases through the passage between the crankcase and the intake manifold when a temperature of the gases is less than a predetermined temperature; and,
decreasing said flow of gases through the passage when said temperature of the gases is greater than a predetermined temperature.
 - [c4] 4. A valve assembly for controlling flow of gases through a passage between an engine crankcase and an engine intake manifold, comprising:
a housing configured to be coupled with the passage; and,
a flow control device disposed in said housing, said device decreasing a flow of said gases through said housing when a temperature of said gases is greater than a predetermined temperature.
 - [c5] 5.The valve assembly of claim 4 wherein said housing includes an inlet aperture communicating gases from said passage into said housing, wherein said flow control device includes:
a piston configured to move adjacent said inlet aperture; and,
an actuator coupled to said piston, said actuator moving said piston to restrict flow of said gases through said aperture when said temperature of said gases is greater than said predetermined temperature.

[c8] 8.The valve assembly of claim 7 wherein said actuator comprises one of a wax motor, a bi-metallic actuator, or an electrically actuated solenoid.

[c10] 10. The system of claim 9 wherein said temperature comprises one of a temperature of gases communicating with said valve assembly, an engine oil temperature, an engine coolant temperature, and an engine block temperature.